

ABSTRACT

A body ply (12) comprising an elastomeric sheet (30) and a plurality of rows of reinforcement cords (32) embedded therein. The plurality of rows can comprise two parallel rows (32a, 32b) of reinforcement cords and the reinforcement cords in one row can be transversely staggered relative to the reinforcement cords in an adjacent row. To make the body ply (12), the reinforcement cords (32) are introduced into a die assembly (44) and rubber is extruded around and between the reinforcement cords. Existing equipment, namely an extrusion apparatus (40) conventionally used to manufacture steel belts or single layer body ply material, can be used to make the body ply material by providing an appropriate replacement insert (56) for its die assembly.